

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (cancelled).

6. (currently amended) An implement for clearing brush and trees, comprising:

a cutting head having a cutting head frame;

a motor mounted to the cutting head frame;

a drive shaft operatively coupled to the motor for rotation; said drive shaft constructed to be selectively uncoupled from the motor;

a bearing mechanism removably secured to the cutting head frame and supporting the drive shaft for the rotation;

a cutting disk mounted on the drive shaft for rotation therewith; and

wherein the bearing mechanism is held by at least one detachable securement member which can be detached to allow the bearing mechanism to be detached from the cutting head to facilitate replacement of the bearing mechanism and drive shaft.

7. (original) An implement according to claim 6 wherein the bearing mechanism and drive shaft are constructed to be detached from the cutting head as a unit.

8. (currently amended) An implement according to claim 6 and further comprising:

~~a first jaw cutting head teeth~~ formed in a rearward portion of the cutting head frame; and

a second pivot jaw pivotally mounted to said cutting head frame for selective pivotal movement relative to ~~said cutting head teeth~~ first jaw to allow controlled grasping action between ~~said cutting head teeth and said pivot jaw first jaw and said second jaw.~~

9. (currently amended) An implement according to claim 8 and further comprising:

a hydraulic cylinder having a first end pivotally connected to the cutting head frame; and

a piston slidably extending from an opposite second end of the hydraulic cylinder; said piston having a distal end pivotally connected to the second pivot jaw wherein actuation of the hydraulic cylinder drives the piston to provide the pivotal movement of the second pivot jaw relative to the ~~first jaw cutting head teeth~~.

10. (original) An implement according to claim 6 wherein the bearing mechanism comprises a first portion, and a second portion extending longitudinally from the first portion; said first portion is removably secured to the cutting head frame by a first set of securement members and said second portion is removably secured to the cutting head frame by a second set of securement members; and wherein removing said first and second sets of securement members releases the drive shaft and bearing mechanism from the cutting head frame as a unit.

11. (original) An implement according to claim 10 wherein said first set of securement members are accessible from outside the cutting head frame; and wherein said second set of securement members are housed within a portion of the cutting head frame and accessible from an opening in the cutting head frame.

Claims 12-18 (cancelled).

19. (new) An implement for clearing brush and trees, comprising:

an articulated boom adapted for movement of a distal end thereof;

a cutting head having a cutting head frame mounted upon the articulated boom to allow adjustable positioning of the cutting head;

a motor mounted upon the cutting head having a rotatable motor shaft;

a bearing cartridge which is detachable from the cutting head and having a drive shaft which is rotatable relative to a bearing cartridge housing, said bearing cartridge being adapted to be coupled to and uncoupled from the cutting head and motor shaft;

at least one detachable securement member which can be attached to or detached from the cutting head to allow the bearing cartridge to be attached or detached, respectively, from the cutting head to facilitate replacement of the bearing cartridge and drive shaft.

20. (new) An implement according to claim 19 further comprising a pivotal jaw mounted at a rearward position upon the cutting head to allowing controlled grasping action.

21. (new) An implement according to claim 20 wherein said pivot jaw is operated by a hydraulic operator.

22. (new) An implement according to claim 19 having a pivotal jaw mounted at a rearward position upon the cutting head to allowing controlled grasping action with complementary teeth.

23. (new) An implement according to claim 19 wherein the bearing cartridge comprises a first portion, and a second portion extending longitudinally from the first portion; said first portion is removably secured to the cutting head by a first set of securing members and said second portion is removably secured to the cutting head by a second set of securing members.

24. (new) An implement according to claim 19 wherein the bearing cartridge comprises a first portion, and a second portion extending longitudinally from the first portion; said first portion is removably secured to the cutting head by a first set of securing members and said second portion is removably secured to the cutting head by a second set of securing members; said drive shaft being connected to the motor shaft using a chain.

25. (new) An implement according to claim 19 wherein the bearing cartridge comprises a first portion, and a second portion extending longitudinally from the first portion; said first portion is removably secured to the cutting head by a first set of securing members and said second portion is removably secured to the cutting head

by a second set of securement members; said drive shaft being connected to the motor shaft using a chain which engages with sprockets on the motor shaft and drive shaft.

26. (new) An implement according to claim 19 said drive shaft being connected to the motor shaft using a chain.

27. (new) An implement according to claim 19 said drive shaft being connected to the motor shaft using a chain which engages sprockets on the motor shaft and drive shaft.

28. (new) An implement according to claim 19 wherein said at least one detachable securement member includes:

one or more securement members connecting upper portions of the bearing cartridge to the cutting head;

one or more securement members connecting lower portions of the bearing cartridge to the cutting head.

29. (new) An implement according to claim 19 wherein said at least one detachable securement member includes:

one or more securement members connecting upper portions of the bearing cartridge to the cutting head;

one or more securement members connecting lower portions of the bearing cartridge to the cutting head;
said securement members connecting upper portions and said securement members connecting lower portions are in opposing relationship.

30. (new) A method for changing a bearing cartridge on an implement for clearing brush and trees which has a cutting head with a motor and motor shaft which drive a drive shaft, comprising:

uncoupling a drive shaft of a first bearing cartridge from the motor shaft;

detaching securement members holding the first bearing cartridge in place relative to the cutting head;

removing the first bearing cartridge;

placing a second bearing cartridge into the cutting head;

attaching securement members to the second bearing cartridge to secure the second bearing cartridge in place relative to the cutting head;

coupling the drive shaft of the second bearing cartridge to the motor shaft.

31. (new) A method according to claim 30 wherein the uncoupling and coupling steps use a chain.

32. (new) A method according to claim 30 wherein the uncoupling and coupling steps use a chain which engages with sprockets on the motor shaft and drive shafts of the first and second bearing cartridges.